Message Text

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SUBJECT: PASOK CALLS FOR "CLOSED" PARLIAMENTARY SESSION ON

CYPRUS AND AEGEAN ISSUES

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LAST EVENING (FEB 10), THE 15-MAN OPPOSITION
PANHELLENIC SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (PASOK) PARLIAMENTARY GROUP,
LED BY ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, DEMANDED A CLOSED SESSION IN ORDER
THAT THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT MIGHT BE BRIEFED ON CYPRUS AND
THE AEGEAN ISSUE. IN TIS WRITTEN PROPOSAL CALLING FOR A
CLOSED SESSION, WHICH IT BASED ON RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF
THE CONSTITUTION AND THE PARLIAMENT'S RULES, PASOK REVIEWED
ITS STAND ON THESE ISSUES AND RECALLED PREVIOUS REQUESTS
THAT THE PARLIAMENT BE BRIEFED ON THESE SENSITIVE FOREIGN
POLICY ISSUES. IT ALSO ATTACKED THE WAY IN WHICH THE
GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN HANDLING THESE MATTERS.

2. THE GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY RELEASED A STATEMENT REJECTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PASOK DEMAND AS UNJUSTIFIED AND DAMAGING TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST, SAYING THAT THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ALWAYS KEPT THE NATION INFORMED ON IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY DEVELOPMENTS. IT ALSO REFUTED THE CHARGES AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, AND IN TURN CRITICIZED PASOK FOR DISTORTING THE TRUTH AND CREATING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE GOG. GEORGE MAVROS, LEADER OF THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION

PARTY, THE UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER, ALSO CAME OUT AGAINST PASOK'S PROPOSAL FOR A "CLOSED DOORS" DISCUSSION, CONTENDING THAT IT WOULD NEEDLESSLY AROUSE PUBLIC FEARS, AND ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME WHEN THERE IS A GENERAL IMPRESSION THAT SOLUTIONS ARE BEING COOKED UP BEHIND THE SCENE. AT THE SAME TIME MAVROS EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR A PUBLIC DISCUSSION.

3. IN ITS CHALLENGE TO THE GOG, PASOK SAID THAT IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE CYPRUS, THE AEGEAN AND PROBABLY THE "THRACE" ISSUES WERE PROGRESSING TOWARDS A "SOLUTION" IN AN EFFORT BEING MASTERMINDED BY THE US, NATO AND THE EC. AMONG OTHER ACCUSATIONS, PASOK CHARGED THAT THE COMING SETTLEMENT WOULD BRING PARTITION TO CYPRUS AND ITS INCORPORATION INTO THE (NATO) ALLIANCE, AS WELL AS LEAD TO THE SURRENDER OF GREEK NATIONAL SPACE TO TURKEY IN THE AEGEAN AND PERHAPS ALSO IN THRACE. THE GOG WOULD PUSH SUCH A SETTLEMENT THROUGH PARLIAMENT WITHOUT ALLOWING PROPER DILIBERATIONS OF THESE VITAL DECISIONS, WARNED PASOK. IT ALSO REVIEWED UNSUCCESSFUL PAST ATTEMPTS TO DEBATE KEY DEVELOPMENTS AND ACCUSED THE GOG OF FAILING TO DEAL WITH THE TREASONOUS ACTS SURROUNDING THE CYPRUS INVASION AND OF NOT ACTING RESOLUTELY IN DEFENDING GREECE'S RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN AND IN PROTECTING GREEK MINORITIES IN TURKEY. BECAUSE GREECE HAD ACCEPTED AMERICAN-NATO MEDIATION OUTSIDE OF THE UN FRAMEWORK, PASOK CLAIMED IT WAS CALLING FOR A CLOSED SESSION IN THE PARLIAMENT TO DISCUSS THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

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4. THE GOG STATEMENT TERSELY REJECTED THE PASOK PROPOSAL. IT SAID THE FEARS IMPLIED IN THE PASOK PROPOSAL WERE UNJUSTIFIED, AND STRESSED THE GOG WOULD NEVER ALLOW ITSELF TO ACCEPT A SETTLEMENT WHICH WOULD DAMAGE THE NATIONAL INTEREST. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD NEVER REFUSED TO INFORM THE POLITICAL LEADERS ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, THE STATEMENT CONTINUED, AND THE GOVT WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO AGAIN "IF A RESPONSIBLE BRIEFING WERE TRULY SOUGHT". IT ALSO JUMPED ON PASOK FOR "DISTORTING THE TRUTH" AND FOR MAKING IT EVEN MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE GOG TO DEAL WITH THIS FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUE WHICH IS NOW AT A "DELICATE PHASE".

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5. COMMENT: KNOWING FULL WELL THE GOG IS NOT ABOUT TO AGREE TO A FOREIGN POLICY DEBATE ON THE EVE OF SUCCESSIVE VISITS TO THE AREA BY UNSYG WALDHEIM AND PRES. CARTER'S SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, CLARK CLIFFORD,

PAPANDREOU FEELS SAFE IN TRYING TO MUDDY THE WATERS
NOW FOR FUTURE ADVANTAGE. ALTHOUGH PUBLIC RAGE
OVER THE CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN HAS SUBSIDED CONSIDERABLY
IN RECENT MONTHS, THE ISSUES ARE HIGHLY VOLATILE AND COULD
ONCE AGAIN EASILY BECOME FOCI OF A POPULAR EMOTIONAL
OUTPOURING. WHEN AND IF SETTLEMENTS COME ABOUT ON CYPRUS
AND THE AEGEAN, THEY UNDOUBTEDLY WILL INVOLVE COMPROMISES BY THE
GREEK SIDE WHICH PAPANDREOU WILL TRY TO USE TO HIS
FULLEST POLITICAL ADVANTAGE.
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Subject: PASOK CALLS FOR \"CLOSED\" PARLIAMENTARY SESSION ON CYPRUS AND AEGEAN ISSUES BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

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